

re tunicae albuginea and vaginalis, I should imagine that its functions would be materially impaired, and that, on examination, some morbid deviation from the natural structure would be observed.

2, New Basinghall-street,
December 2, 1836.

COLD AFFUSION IN ILEUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Since I had the honour of seeing you in London, the following case has come under my care, for the insertion of which in your journal I should feel obliged. I remain, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

JULIUS WOLFF, M.D.

94, Duke-street, Liverpool, Dec. 2, 1836.

A. D., merchant in this town, was at a convivial party on the 3rd of November. It appears, according to his own statement, that he then took an unusual quantity of wine. At 12 o'clock at night he went home. On going to bed he fell down stairs, when his abdomen came in contact with a stone, in consequence of which severe inflammation within the abdomen took place. Notwithstanding five bleedings, the frequent application of leeches, (which were applied four times, 20 leeches at each application), the inflammation increased.

On the 9th of November, vomiting of faecal matter appeared. Up to this time the bowels could not be moved, although the most powerful aperients were administered, and linen dipped in cold water was also applied. I then ordered cold water to be poured on his abdomen, and to be repeated at short intervals. Four hours after this he had strong evacuations, the vomiting ceased, and the patient was saved.

The intention of communicating this case is, to draw the attention of the profession to the efficacy of cold water in ileus, which at first was recommended by a German physician (I think Brandeis). I remember four cases of ileus (without hernia,) one in Germany, two in France, and the present case, in all of which very powerful remedies were applied, viz. croton oil, injection of tobacco, &c., but all were useless. The effect of the cold water in three of the cases was evident. In one case, where a lady had this disease, the application of cold water was refused. She died.

CASES OCCURRING IN MEDICAL PRACTICE.

By J. PEACOCK, M.D., *Darlington.*

OIL OF TURPENTINE IN TETANUS.

CASE 1.—Elizabeth Copperwaite, aged eleven, the daughter of Robert Copperwaite,

of Darlington, had the sole of her foot pierced by a thorn, which was extracted with some difficulty. I was called in on the fourth day after the accident. She complained of her throat being dry and sore, and I found the larynx enlarged and prominent, and the muscles of the neck rigid and very painful; her face was much flushed, and a copious perspiration covered her whole body. The first time that I saw her her pulse was 95; in the evening of the same day it was 105, and during the day she had sometimes complained of a sudden very acute pain at her *heart*, as she said. There was much difficulty in mastication as well as deglutition, but she could get a small morsel of boiled barley down more easily than her tea; the wound had healed up entirely. There was now no doubt that this was a case of *Traumatic Tetanus*. Nothing had passed through her bowels since the accident, so I gave her immediately a good smart dose of calomel, scammony, and jalap, but as it did not take effect in three hours, I repeated it, when the medicine acted very briskly. I had long made up my mind, that when I met with a case of tetanus I would make trial of the ol. terebinthinæ, so I immediately gave her xii drops in a little mint-water, which the child took better than her tea; I repeated this every three hours, so long as she had occasion for its use, and in twenty-four hours the muscles were sensibly relaxed. I think that I made her continue it during four days, and then she discontinued it altogether. The medicine was not attended with any inconvenience to the urinary organs.

During the time that the child was suffering, the mother was constantly soliciting me to promise her that "when the child recovered she should again be as *canny* as ever." The purport of this request I confess I did not at first understand, but when the muscles were set at liberty, I found that a very beautiful child was restored to its anxious parents, a result which I could not have guessed whilst she was suffering.

CASE 2.—A young lady, aged seventeen, who lives about three miles from Darlington, wounded her hand with a rusty nail, in a very slight way, so as not to draw blood. In a few days her hand and arm became stiff, and very painful on motion, as well as the jaws and the muscles of the neck and throat. She was chiefly attended by my partner, Dr. Macfarlan, who had not joined me when the first case was under my care; but as soon as I related the effect to him, he lost no time in administering the turpentine, and after a hard struggle there was every reason to believe that it was made the means of restoring her to health. To be sure, the wound was laid open more than once, and many topical applications were used, such as poultices, fomentations, &c.,